

A2 15. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said metabolic derivative thereof is selected from the group consisting of 5-androstene-3 β ,17 β -diol, 5-androstene-3 β ,17 β -diol sulfate and 4-androstene-3,17-dione.

A3 26. (Amended). The method of Claim 23, wherein said metabolic derivative thereof is selected from the group consisting of 5-androstene-3 β ,17 β -diol, 5 androstene-3 β ,17 β -diol sulfate and 4-androstene-3,17-dione.

A4 34. (Amended) A composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof, and at least depigmenting agent selected from the group consisting of kojic acid, ellagic acid, arbutin and derivatives thereof, hydroquinone, aminophenol derivatives, iminophenol derivative, L-2-oxothiazolidone-4-carboxylic acid or procysteine and salts and esters thereof; and plant extracts, extract of liquorice, extract of mulberry and extract of skullcap.

35. (Amended) The composition of Claim 34, wherein said at least one depigmenting agent is selected from the group consisting of N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-para-aminophenol, N-ethyloxycarbonyl-para-aminophenol, 4-carboxylic acid or procysteine, as well as its salts and esters; and plant extracts, extract of liquorice, extract of mulberry and extract of skullcap.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the claims are supported by the claims as originally filed. No new matter is believed to be added by entry of these amendments. Claims 1-35 are active.